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PATENT

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR
PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OPTIMIZING LEAF COMPARISONS FROM A TREE SEARCH

the specification of which is identified by the attorney (IBM) docket number below:

XXX under Attorney's Docket Number RPS920020019US1
as Application Serial No. _____
and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

I hereby claim the benefit of foreign priority under 35 USC 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application the priority of which is claimed:

Prior Foreign Application(s):

Priority Claimed

(Number)

(Country)

(Filing Date)

____ Yes ____ No

I hereby claim the benefit of United States priority under 35 USC 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in a listed prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 USC 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information material to the patentability of this application as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

(Application Serial #)

(Filing Date)

(Status)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 USC 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint all attorneys and/or agents associated

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with **CUSTOMER NO.: 25299**; and the following attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Carlos Munoz-Bustamante	Reg. No. 51,349
Joscelyn G. Cockburn	Reg. No. 27,069
John D. Flynn	Reg. No. 35,137
George E. Grosser	Reg. No. 25,629
Daniel E. McConnell	Reg. No. 20,360
Martin J. McKinley	Reg. No. 31,782
Scott W. Reid	Reg. No. 42,098
J. Bruce Schelkopf	Reg. No. 43,901

Send correspondence to **SCOTT W REID**, at **CUSTOMER NO. 25299** and direct all telephone calls to **SCOTT W REID** at (919) 254-1085.

FULL NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR: **SANTOSH PRASAD GAUR**

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: Santosh Prasad Gaur

DATE: 11/21/02

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CITIZENSHIP: USA

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FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: **WILLIAM ERIC HALL**

INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____

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CITIZENSHIP: USA

POST OFFICE ADDRESS: same as residence

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FULL NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: **WILLIAM ERIC HALL**

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